

ADVERTISEMENT

TO

*THE NEW ILLUSTRATION*

OF

THE SEXUAL SYSTEM

OF

LINNÆUS,

BY

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JANUARY 1, 1797.

STATUES have been raised, Medals have been struck, Paintings and Engravings have been multiplied, to represent to the remotest generations the person of LINNÆUS, and many societies assuming the honour of his Name have endeavoured thereby to perpetuate his glory. The most eminent Professors of Europe have been for years employed in favouring the world with Editions of his Botanical Works; so that, added to the success they had in his life-time, they have not passed abroad through less than fifteen editions; and, having been translated into the German, French, and Spanish tongues, they have ceased to be confined solely to the learned. The honour of first sending LINNÆUS's Genera forth in an English dress is due to a most respectable Society of Botanists



at Litchfield, who early entered upon this arduous undertaking. But these gentlemen, instead of Anglicizing the Latin of LINNÆUS, invented for their work new English compound terms, which, as being extremely inharmonious, and not more intelligible than the original Linnæan expressions, subjected their translation to criticism. The Rev. THOMAS MARTYN, the learned Professor of Botany at Cambridge, confessing his dissatisfaction of what had hitherto appeared, presented a dissertation to the Linnæan Society "on the Language of Botany," which, being highly approved of by the President, Dr. SMITH, he was persuaded to strengthen and enforce his opinion in a larger work, which has since met with universal approbation. Conceiving, therefore, that the public would be gratified by a New Translation of the Genera of LINNÆUS, chiefly grounded upon the Principles of Professor MARTYN, Dr.



THORNTON has been encouraged to venture upon this arduous enterprize, and, relying upon the generous Protection of HER MAJESTY, and the munificence of a GREAT NATION, he attempts even to surpass in his Plates and Type all botanical works which have hitherto appeared:—and as he designs the present work to be a “National Homage” to LINNÆUS, it may be proper here to mention that he waves all idea of pecuniary recompence, and pledges himself to the public, that the whole money subscribed shall be expended upon this splendid undertaking.

With a view to render the Sexual System free from the objections to which it was exposed, Dr. THORNTON has reduced the four and twenty classes to twelve; and to facilitate further the progress of the young Botanist in this beautiful science, he has invented Tables to illustrate this System, com-



prising the easiest Discriminating Characters; by which it is presumed, that any one, with but a moderate attention, will be enabled to discover in a few minutes, the name of each unknown plant he may have gathered either in the fields or garden.

An Introduction will accompany the Translation of the Genera, to explain in a clear and concise manner the philosophic and fundamental principles of botany; the organized structure of plants; their vitality; the motion of their juices; the offices of root, trunk, branches, leaves, and flowers; their food; their transpiration and absorption of air; their relation to light and heat; their sleep; the reason for the different forms of flowers; their sexes; the different arrangements founded upon the fructification; and at the conclusion of the work will be given a small octavo volume, entitled, The Botanist's Pocket



Companion, elucidating the terms used in botany, with an explanation of the new terms occasionally introduced, including a great variety of subordinate plates.

The Systems of LINNÆUS and TOURNEFORT will be displayed in elegant Groups of Flowers, painted by RENAIGLE; and where single plants are required to illustrate the text, they will not only express the different gradations of the flowers, but will generally have, what has not been before attempted. Back-Grounds expressive of the situation to which each naturally belongs. The Emblematic Paintings are by RUSSELL, R. A. Painter to the King. The Engravings will be executed in a New Style by CALDWELL.



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As the utmost Œconomy will be adopted consistent with the magnitude of such an undertaking, Dr. THORNTON proposes

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